



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SELLS RESIDENT SENTENCED TO 4 YEARS ON FIREARMS CHARGE

TUCSON, Ariz. – Julio Hank Velasco, 30, of Sells, Ariz., was sentenced here on September 21st to four years in prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release, by U.S. District Judge Raner C. Collins. Velasco had pleaded guilty on May 7, 2007, to being a Convicted Felon in Possession of a Firearm.

Velasco's arrest had been sought since November 2005 on a federal arrest warrant for violating the terms of his supervised release that had been previously imposed in connection with a 2003 conviction for Involuntary Manslaughter. On February 19, 2006, a Tohono O'Odham police officer conducted a traffic stop on the Tohono O'Odham Indian Nation, recognized Velasco as a passenger and knew of the outstanding arrest warrant. Velasco was ordered out of the vehicle and to submit to arrest, but instead of complying with arrest procedures, Velasco assumed an aggressive posture, then ran back to the vehicle he had been a passenger in as it was slowly pulling away and jumped back into the vehicle. The vehicle then sped away and a chase ensued.

Velasco fled the vehicle but was not apprehended that day. A search of the vehicle resulted in the recovery of a Bersa model 85 .380 caliber firearm with an altered or obliterated serial number from the area where Velasco had been sitting. Technicians from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were able to determine the serial number. Three days later, on February 22, 2006, Velasco was found hiding in the closet of a residence in Casa Grande, Ariz. and was arrested by the U.S. Marshals Service.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Tohono O'Odham Police Department, the U.S. Marshals Service and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The prosecution was handled by Judson T. Mihok, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-1744 TUC RCC
RELEASE NUMBER: 2007-205(Velasco)

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